

Purposeful Incarceration – Basic Information

Purposeful Incarceration (PI) is a joint initiative between the Indiana Department of Correction, the Indiana criminal court system, and the Indiana Parole Board. The intent of the PI initiative is to incentivize addiction recovery treatment for those offenders whom the sentencing authority (the courts or the IPB) believes their crimes are related to substance use, and that the offender will benefit from treatment for a substance use disorder during their incarceration. In return for successfully completing an IDOC-recognized substance abuse treatment program during their incarceration, the sentencing authority agrees to consider a modification to an offender's sentence (release to community supervision or return to parole). The sentencing authority must include in the Abstract of Judgment or Sentencing Order that the offender is recommended for PI, and that the sentencing authority will consider a modification of the offender's sentence upon successful completion of a clinically appropriate substance abuse treatment program.

Eligible offenders, including those designated for PI, participate in the IDOC's comprehensive addiction recovery treatment program called Recovery While Incarcerated (RWI). RWI is a competency-based program that does not have a minimum enrollment time requirement. Instead, RWI offenders must demonstrate competency of recovery skills through a series of six progressions. Most offenders will require several months to successfully complete Progression 5, the point at which an offender is considered to have successfully completed RWI. Following successful completion of RWI, the sentencing authority schedules a sentence modification or parole review hearing to consider modifying the offender to a form of community supervision for the remainder of their sentence.

There are three important benefits of participating in PI for the offender: the opportunity for an earlier release through a sentence modification or return to parole, a time cut of up to 180 days for successful completion (which is independent of a potential sentence modification or parole return), and of course, the treatment benefit and addiction recovery support.

Common Misperceptions About PI

- **PI is not a program within IDOC.** PI is an initiative by which an offender may be granted a sentence modification if they successfully complete addiction recovery treatment while incarcerated. The program that PI-designated offenders must complete is RWI.
- **PI is not a court order for substance abuse treatment.** Offenders may refuse to participate in RWI if they choose. Substance abuse treatment may only be mandated by an order for involuntary civil commitment for substance abuse treatment.
- **PI does not guarantee automatic or immediate admission to RWI.** Offenders must still meet clinical and administrative eligibility requirements to participate in RWI and are subject to the same admission priority criteria as other offenders.